

April 4, 1999

Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852

5 2 4 8 '99 APR 12 110:18

Regarding Docket #98N-1038

I write in support of prominent, explicit labeling of all irradiated foods. Food irradiation is just the most recent attempt by U.S. food producers to avoid cleaning up their filthy operations. They should not be rewarded with protective coloration. Do not reduce the prominence of current irradiation labeling.

If the food that is being produced requires irradiation to be safe for human consumption, something is terribly wrong. I oppose food irradiation, but I understand the irradiators have won that battle. At least those of us who prefer to support responsible food producers--that is those who can get the stuff to us without needing to irradiate it--should be able to avoid the food producer slobs.

Fine, the industry has been let off the hook for cleanliness. At least require them to prominently label their products as ones subjected to irradiation. That way we'll all know which producers were unable to maintain high enough production standards that they could just skip the trip to the isotopes.

Yes, yes, you've assured us that there is no conceivable problem with irradiated food. This begs the question of why irradiation is even needed. I want to know that a product was irradiated. I want to be able to see it at a glance. I will not knowingly buy irradiated products, and I don't want to hunt through fine print to figure it out.

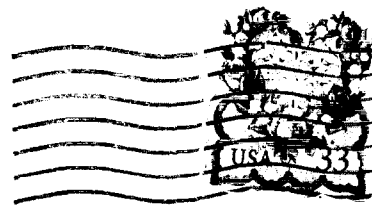
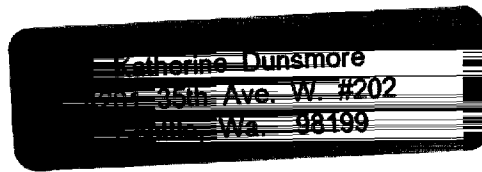
If I had my druthers, irradiation labeling would be the first thing that sprang to eye. Right along with pesticide content, just to mention another area where the FDA is way off-base.

In a nutshell: Do not reduce irradiation labeling requirements.

Katherine A. Dunsmore
Katherine A. Dunsmore
4201 35th Avenue West, #202
Seattle, WA 98199

C570

98N-1038



Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food & Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville, MD 20852